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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 27 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Natalegawa ..... (Indonesia)

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08-35275 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2008/18 and A/AC.109/2008/L.5)

2. **Ms. Schuler-Uluc** (Strategic Communications Division, Department of Public Information), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2008/18), said that the Department's activities pertaining to decolonization could be broadly characterized as coverage and outreach. Coverage activities had focused on the work of the General Assembly, particularly the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee, whereas outreach had been undertaken through the Department's different communications capacities.

3. Given the limited resources available to the United Nations information centres (UNICs) it was very difficult for them to disseminate information to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Department had worked to overcome that challenge by disseminating information directly from Headquarters and by establishing closer links between Headquarters and the centres. It had been carrying out its dissemination work in line with the general mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly and, as far as possible, it had endeavoured to involve the relevant centres in publicizing the work of the United Nations on decolonization.

4. The Department had sent a number of United Nations programmes to a wide array of radio broadcasters, including in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; it had prepared a list of those broadcasters in order to help the Special Committee to better understand the scope of the Department's efforts in that area. It had also issued several brochures on decolonization over the past few years and was in the process of correcting their online versions. The printed versions of those brochures would also be revised in the near future.

5. **Ms. Mackay** (Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs) said that, working in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, the Department had continued to disseminate information about the United Nations mandate on decolonization, the decolonization process and the work of the Special Committee. It had prepared working papers on each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, contributed to various United Nations publications and outreach activities, and updated the existing United Nations website on decolonization. In that connection, an initial design for a prototype website on decolonization had already been completed.

6. In preparing working papers for the Special Committee, the Department had collected and analysed information from a number of sources. It had sought the cooperation of the relevant administering Powers in providing information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations; it had monitored numerous media and Internet sites; and it had gathered information not only from participants at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar in Bandung, Indonesia, but also from petitioners participating in meetings of the Special Committee and in hearings of the Fourth Committee.

7. Those meetings had provided the Department with an opportunity to disseminate information regarding the decolonization mandate of the United Nations and efforts made to implement that mandate. The information materials included a leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", and one entitled "The United Nations and Decolonization: Questions and Answers" on the role of the United Nations in decolonization, the work of the Special Committee and the options available to the Territories with respect to their future status. Information was also made available via the United Nations website on decolonization.

8. However, getting the information to people in small island Territories in remote areas of the world remained a challenge. An initial effort had therefore been made to share information with former participants in the Special Committee's regional seminars via e-mail. In that connection, she recalled that, at the 2008 Pacific regional seminar, participants had urged the Special Committee to engage proactively with the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the preparation of annual regional seminars.

9. **The Chairman**, drawing attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.5, said that he took it that the Special Committee wished to waive the 24-hour rule and to take immediate action on the draft resolution.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Special Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.5 without a vote.

12. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.5 was adopted without a vote.*

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/63/65 and A/AC.109/2008/L.4)

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/63/65, which contained information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. He then drew attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.4, saying that he took it that the Special Committee wished to waive the 24-hour rule and to take immediate action on the draft resolution.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Special Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.4 without a vote.

16. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.4 was adopted without a vote.*

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2008/L.6)

17. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.6, adding that he took it that the Special Committee wished to waive the 24-hour rule and to take immediate action on the draft resolution.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Special Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.6 without a vote.

20. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2008/L.6 was adopted without a vote.*

Requests for hearings

21. **The Chairman** drew attention to aides-memoires 04/08, 05/08 and 06/08 relating to the Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico, the question of Gibraltar and the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), respectively, and to the various communications attached thereto, which contained requests for hearings. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to those requests.

22. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.